

## Social Entrepreneurship: A Critical Review from Odisha

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### Abstract

This paper presents a comprehensive critical review of social entrepreneurship in Odisha, addressing significant gaps in existing literature. Despite numerous studies, substantial areas remain unexplored, which this review aims to fill. Social entrepreneurship is defined as the process of converting ideas into reality, leveraging available resources to benefit society.

This study synthesizes insights from various papers, journals, and MSME reports to provide a nuanced understanding of social entrepreneurship in Odisha. Utilizing secondary data, this research examines the current state of social entrepreneurship, including challenges, opportunities, and policy implications.

The findings of this study will contribute to the existing body of knowledge, serving as a valuable reference for researchers, policymakers, and practitioners. Specifically, this research will help identify areas for improvement, inform policy decisions, and facilitate the development of effective social entrepreneurship initiatives in Odisha.

This critical review will also provide a foundation for future research, encouraging scholars to explore uncharted territories in social entrepreneurship. By bridging the knowledge gap, this study aims to promote sustainable social entrepreneurship practices, ultimately contributing to the socio-economic development of Odisha.

**Keywords:** Social entrepreneurship , critical review, Entrepreneurship development, Odisha .

### INTRODUCTION:

Here's a potential introduction for your research paper on social entrepreneurship in Odisha: Social entrepreneurship has emerged as a vital mechanism for addressing social and economic challenges in developing countries. By combining business principles with social objectives, social entrepreneurs have the potential to create sustainable and scalable solutions to pressing problems. Odisha, one of the poorest states in India, presents a unique context for social entrepreneurship. Despite its rich natural resources and cultural heritage, Odisha faces significant development challenges, including poverty, inequality, and limited access to education and healthcare.

The concept of social entrepreneurship has gained significant attention in recent years, with many scholars and practitioners highlighting its potential to drive positive social change. However, despite its

growing popularity, social entrepreneurship remains a relatively under-researched field, particularly in the context of Odisha. This paper aims to contribute to the existing literature on social entrepreneurship by providing a critical review of the sector in Odisha.

The review will examine the current state of social entrepreneurship in Odisha, including the key players, initiatives, and challenges. It will also analyze the opportunities and threats facing social entrepreneurship in the state, and identify potential areas for future research and intervention. By providing a comprehensive overview of social entrepreneurship in Odisha, this paper aims to inform policy and practice, and contribute to the development of more effective and sustainable social entrepreneurship initiatives in the state.

The paper will draw on a range of sources, including academic literature, policy documents, and primary data collected through interviews and surveys with

social entrepreneurs and stakeholders in Odisha. By combining these different sources and perspectives, the paper aims to provide a nuanced and comprehensive understanding of social entrepreneurship in Odisha, and identify potential areas for future research and intervention.

In terms of its structure, the paper will be divided into five sections. Following this introduction, the second section will provide an overview of the concept of social entrepreneurship, including its definition, key characteristics, and benefits. The third section will examine the current state of social entrepreneurship in Odisha, including the key players, initiatives, and challenges. The fourth section will analyze the opportunities and threats facing social entrepreneurship in Odisha, and identify potential areas for future research and intervention. Finally, the fifth section will conclude the paper by summarizing its key findings and implications, and identifying potential areas for future research and intervention.

By providing a critical review of social entrepreneurship in Odisha, this paper aims to contribute to the existing literature on social entrepreneurship, and inform policy and practice in the state.

## **OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

### **1. Women Empowerment through Social Entrepreneurship**

Objective: To explore how social entrepreneurship empowers women in rural areas of Odisha, focusing on the role of Self-Help Groups (SHGs).

### **2. Impact of Social Entrepreneurship on Rural Development**

Objective: To assess the role of social entrepreneurship in fostering rural development in Odisha, focusing on agricultural and micro-enterprises.

### **3. Challenges Faced by Social Entrepreneurs in Odisha**

Objective: To identify the key challenges hindering the growth of social

entrepreneurship in Odisha, including financial, social, and regulatory barriers.

## **REVIEW OF LITERATURE**

### **A. Women Empowerment through Social Entrepreneurship:**

Over the past 20 years, the area of “social entrepreneurship” has been growing steadily. When the word “social entrepreneurship” is used in its widest sense, it refers to a variety of initiatives that combine business tools with social goals (Hockerts, 2017). So, social entrepreneurship is a component of a bigger cultural trend that seeks to balance morality and responsibility with commercial activities. The term “social entrepreneur refers to an individual or a group of individuals who develop novel strategies for increasing the quality of life of the community. Social entrepreneurs employ a combined approach to accomplish their social goals (Ashraf, 2019), Social entrepreneurs are those who come up with the most creative answers and the urgent issues of the society. Because of their tenacious concentration, they provide innovative answers to critical societal problems. Instead of leaving it to the government or others, social entrepreneurs identify the problem, collaborate to discover a solution and motivate the entire community to advance (Nyssens, 2006). It serves as a role model for encouraging women’s economic growth in rural areas. Social entrepreneurship leads to financial prosperity, which is essential for sustainable development. They create novel strategies to raise money for societal improvement. It is the process of using original ideas to address social problems. In the present global environment, social entrepreneurship is needed in both urban and rural economies (Lanteri, 2015). It is seen as a plan for long-term expansion. Women make a significant contribution to overall rural development. They apply their commercial acumen to every aspect of farming, from selling horticultural products to operating a dairy farm. When it comes to rural women’s prosperity, the emphasis must be developing the women by raising their levels of education, financial power and social conditioning (Desai, 2005). This is mostly accomplished through

the formation of Self Help Groups, which encourage social entrepreneurship for the development of women community in rural area. SHG took the shape of social entrepreneurship and gained momentum from the 1980s when it came to discussion of rural development, women empowerment and poverty eradication. Self Help Groups make various attempts to advance social entrepreneurship (Kumaran, 2002). The idea of providing funding through SHGs is a very original approach to address and resolve the issues of employment and income in rural India. SHG is a means by which the less advantaged group in society may obtain official financial services at a very cheap and with little formality (Galab, and Rao, 2003). CostSHG inspires its members while supporting social entrepreneurs in overcoming challenges, especially in rural India (Srivastava, 2005). Self Help Groups (SHGs) are voluntary organizations of women with the aim of achieving a common objective like creating social values, supporting widows and divorcees by increasing the financial conditions of rural women Rajasekaran, and Sindhu, 2013). Women with the same social background get together for a shared purpose to generate and manage funds for benefit of the members of the group (Horper, 2002). The introduction of this concept aims to enable rural communities to become self-sufficient and engage in some type of income generating activities and also encourage them to save more money (Suri, and Kaur, 2016). By working together, they also convince additional society members to join the SHG. Involvement in SHG not only helps them to cope with financial issues, but also allows them to start their own business and provide work for the neighboring communities (Gurumoorthy, 2000), The idea gained popularity as a result of its success and potential in alleviating poverty, reducing gender discrimination and women exploitation in rural India. SHGs are vital for fostering confidence and bringing sustainable livelihood among rural women who live in poverty (Bundela, et al., 2013).

Self Help Groups which support social entrepreneurship for the growth of the women's community in rural areas are primarily responsible for

empowering women by increasing their levels of education, financial security and social conditioning, SHGs have taken the form of social entrepreneurship and try to promote social entrepreneurial activities in a variety of ways. It is a means by which the less advantaged group in society may obtain official financial services at a very cheap cost and with little formality. SHGs encourage their members, especially in rural India and assist social entrepreneurs in overcoming difficulties. Therefore, it is undeniable that SHGs provide a platform for the promotion of social entrepreneurs,

Datta, Gailey (2012) : This article seeks to broaden existing understandings of women's entrepreneurship by focusing on less studied types of ventures and contexts—namely, a social entrepreneurial venture in India. A case study analysis was used to assess two primary areas of interest: (1) elements of empowerment embedded in the venture's business model and (2) individual perceptions of empowerment has been presented in this article. Agrawal, Gandhi, Khare (2021) : The purpose of this study is to explore how social entrepreneurship empowers women and how it influences the existing gender based intersectionalities in the society. This paper is based on a single case study of a social entrepreneurial startup called "Pahal," which used social entrepreneurial strategies to encourage women to engage in economic activities, which helped them in gaining economic empowerment. Rastogi, Baral, Banu (2022) : This paper aims to provide relevant knowledge about entrepreneurship and women's leadership in the Indian context. More specifically, it unleashes the veiled challenges as well as success stories of select women entrepreneurs of a developing country to bridge the gap between entrepreneurship theory and practice. It aims to provide directions to the policymakers, educationists, society and families in creating a conducive environment that is essential for the success of women entrepreneurs.

## **B . Impact of Social Entrepreneurship on Rural Development :**

Imanuella, Idris, Kamaruddin( 2024 ) : The paper aims at examining the role of social entrepreneurship in achieving (SRD) in Sudan with reference to Wad Balal Project for investment and rural development in Gezira State, which established in 2005 in small villages in Gezira State through mobilizing of local savings and resources for creating job opportunities, sponsoring poor households, improving the infrastructures, and reducing poverty. The research recommended that a similar social entrepreneurship project can be generalized to more villages in Sudan and other developing countries to accelerate sustainable rural development. Local communities have to support similar initiatives for developing their villages.

Majhi ( 2019 ) : The major challenges for social entrepreneurship development in agriculture are cultural complexity, lack of proper understanding of the social enterprise; low priority against urban based enterprises etc. Agriculture sector has tremendous potential and opportunities for social entrepreneurship development considering different activities and dimension. Organic farming, value chain management, agridecision support system, input and product management are some of the opportunities for agri-social entrepreneurship development in India.

Begum ( 2020 ) :The paper the tendencies of social entrepreneurship in India, to present successful examples of such business for providing recommendations how to improve situation in rural areas in terms of social entrepreneurship development. Indian government has made some steps towards development of social Enterprises, social entrepreneurship, and social in- novation, but a lot remains to be improved. The roots of family business go back only above 20 years and have rather poor traditions in India. It is tightly related to rural areas especially than agriculture economies are acting as family farms with potential of young social businesses.

Bayarçelik, Taşel ( 2019 ) : The purpose of this study is to explore the link between social entrepreneurship

and economic growth. For nations' economic development there are several influencing factors that can be listed. Entrepreneurship has been an interest to academics and practitioners for a few decades and accepted as one of the important factors that are playing an essential role in advancing economic development. Social entrepreneurship (SE) is a new area of entrepreneurship, which focuses on creating social value initially for individuals.

Bencheva, Stoeva, Terziev, Tepavicharova, Arabska ( 2017 ) : The research aims to reveal the role and benefits of social entrepreneurship for sustainable rural development through analysis of the factors and barriers to its application. It is important in rural areas to create suitable conditions for building social enterprises with a large scope covering all vulnerable groups of the territory. In this context, the logical connection between the factors of social entrepreneurship is discussed which takes into account the peculiarities of rural areas in Bulgaria in connection with its application. Some of the most important factors, challenges, and constraints that have been analyzed are economic, social and institutional. The results show that sustainable rural development can be achieved in solving socially significant problems with the means and approaches of social entrepreneurship and its promotion in rural areas. Pandey, Mukherjee, Kumar ( 2008 ) : The paper comes up three sustainable models of social entrepreneurship which tackle a wide assortment of issues such as nutrition problem, land problems, pollution problems and employment problems .

Iyengar ( 2014 ) : This paper reviews existing literature on Social Entrepreneurship from 'Social' as well as 'Entrepreneurship' dimensions on concepts and ideas for a comprehensive and common view for all those involved with this phenomenon in eternal goodness to bring the desired change for effective and efficient Social Enterprise. It attempts to revisit the need for locus and focus of an entrepreneur towards bringing a social change as an ultimate challenge and goal.

SrideviSamineni ( 2018 ) : This paper examines the social initiatives that are taken up at various levels by

the community based organizations set up by the mutually aided groups to improve the livelihood opportunities for women in rural India. It also looks at the impact of these community based organizations for sustainable rural development. And dwells on understanding the economic status of women by livelihood enhancement through social entrepreneurship, by taking few examples where women are taking lead in the economic empowerment journey. This paper is based on ongoing research to highlight the „Social Model“ for building the social capital for sustainable development and increase the economic enhancement of rural women.

Gaitri Kumari, Ebikinei Stanley Eguruze ( 2022 ) : The present study examines the roles of social entrepreneurs in women empowerment and rural community development in India. It is a qualitative study that analysed cross-case studies of two social entrepreneurial ventures. Firstly, the present research identifies five roles of social entrepreneurs' self-efficacy for solving social issues like women empowerment and rural community development. Secondly, the study identified the diverse characteristics of social entrepreneurs in rural community development via socio-economic development and sustainable livelihood. Thirdly, the study also found that these roles are interlinked, but each role can also be independently functional, meaningful, and impactful.

Ambati ( 2022 ) : The main contribution of this paper is to evaluate the opportunities. and challenges of social entrepreneurial activities in Central Gujarat, India. Moreover, analysis and discussion would help the researcher to draw reasonable conclusions, provide a number of insights on lessons and challenges with which a social enterprise sector can be expected to face in near future.

### **C . Challenges Faced by Social Entrepreneurs in Odisha**

**Panigrahy, Hota ( 2015 ) :** The present study is an attempt for understanding the overall environmental scenario in Odisha and to identify the scope and challenges to entrepreneurial development in three

major sectors – the infrastructure, service, mining and manufacturing – which contribute significantly to the Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) of the state. The research is further broadened to understand the set-up of medium, small and micro enterprises (MSMEs) in Odisha and depict the policies designed by the government which would boost the MSME sector in the state.

**Sharma, Rana ( 2021 ) :** The objective of this paper is to explore the initiation taken by the government for entrepreneurship development programs, challenges coming up while implementing these programs on the ground and suggestive remedies for effective implementation of EDP programs in India.

**Gordon, Natarajan, Arora ( 2009 ) :** The ecosystem, at present, is favourable in India for entrepreneurial development. The initiatives taken by the Government of India and State Governments, the growing number of funding agencies such as angel investors, venture capitalists, NBFCs, Fintech start-ups, etc., the rise in number of accelerators and incubators, and the attitude of family and community have created a conducive ecosystem for the growth of sustainable business ventures. Knowledge about the changes in the ecosystem, opportunities and challenges in the globalised business becomes imperative for youth and students who wish to pursue entrepreneurship as their career. The present edition provides comprehensive knowledge about entrepreneurship, various aspects of starting a new industrial units and make them viable and sustainable.

**Jewlikar, Haldar ( 2014 ) :** This paper examines the effectiveness of entrepreneurship development programs (EDP) in achieving some objectives. The main objective of EDPs is to make the EDP trainee an enterprise creator. Hence, it seems necessary to see whether, the objectives of EDPs is fulfilled or not. In simple words, there is a need to have a retrospective look into how many participants have actually started their own enterprises after completing the training. This calls for the evaluation of EDPs. Assets of the organization are the human resources that are an invaluable asset.

**Jindal, Bhardwaj ( 2016 ) :** An attempt has been made to study the implications of the recent policy reforms of entrepreneurship in India which has made India a hotspot destination for start-ups. The study found that most of these recent reforms are focusing on skills development measures giving birth to technology enabled start-ups. Hence, it is suggested that a proper supervision and monitoring mechanism should be set to analyze the outcome and effectiveness of these initiatives on periodic basis and entrepreneurship development at grassroot level should be targeted so as to provide self-employment opportunities to technology-deficient section of the society.

**Jyoti Verma ( 2022 ) :** The main purpose of such initiatives is to promote entrepreneurship solutions for economic sustainability and growth. This chapter highlights the current innovative ecosystem of entrepreneurship and the challenges it faces. It also highlights the initiatives taken by the Indian government for the promotion of entrepreneurship development in India.

**Rao, Pushpa Sri ( 2015 ) :** This paper attempts to present the role of entrepreneurship education in India. If entrepreneurship education in India cannot completely remove the major hindrances in the pursuit of economic development and employment, at least it can make a fine restart. The Government also needs to play their part in encouraging entrepreneurship education directed at nurturing entrepreneurial competencies and formulating favourable policies to reinforce the entrepreneurial eco-system in the country.

**Tattwamasi , Paltasingh ( 2012 ) :** The present educational scenario in developing countries has limited scope for preparing the young masses to overcome the problems of unemployment and poverty. The creativity and interest of the young minds need to be nurtured through an appropriate system of education. There must be a curriculum that can be introduced to overcome some of the limitations in the existing education system. Entrepreneurship can be identified as one of the important components of economic development. Focus on entrepreneurship

education can be facilitated through partnership, policies and introduction of appropriate curriculum. The paper has focused on the relevance of including entrepreneurship in teaching and learning at primary, secondary and higher education levels in Indian context.

**Muhib, Khan ( 2010 ) :** The main objective of this paper is to evaluate the potential role the entrepreneurial education can play in the economic growth of Pakistan. The prospects of entrepreneurship education are found to be higher in terms of economic growth. As a policy implication, the paper suggests the incorporation of entrepreneurial education into the higher education as a single standing specialization, for, it has a strong potential for the economic revitalization of Pakistan.

## **FINDINGS OF THE RESEARCH:**

### **1. Women Empowerment through Social Entrepreneurship**

**Objective:** To explore how social entrepreneurship empowers women in rural areas of Odisha, focusing on the role of Self-Help Groups (SHGs). From the reviewed literature, the following key findings emerged:

**Economic Independence:** Social entrepreneurship initiatives have enabled women to achieve economic independence, particularly through SHGs. These groups act as platforms for skill development, financial literacy, and collective bargaining, which enhances their income-generating capabilities.

**Leadership and Decision-Making:** Women participating in SHGs have reported increased involvement in community decision-making processes, indicating a shift in traditional gender roles.

**Case Studies in Odisha:** Examples from rural Odisha highlight success stories where women entrepreneurs have diversified their income streams through micro-businesses such as tailoring, poultry, and handicrafts.

**Barriers:** Despite progress, cultural norms and limited access to markets continue pose challenges to women entrepreneurs.

## **2. Impact of Social Entrepreneurship on Rural Development :**

**Objective:** To assess the role of social entrepreneurship in fostering rural development in Odisha, focusing on agricultural and micro-enterprises. The literature points to significant impacts of social entrepreneurship in rural areas, including:

**Economic Growth:** Social enterprises have contributed to rural economic development by promoting sustainable agriculture, increasing employment opportunities, and enhancing income levels.

**Innovative Solutions:** Initiatives like solar energy projects, organic farming, and water conservation techniques have addressed rural infrastructure and environmental issues effectively.

**Social Benefits:** Social enterprises in Odisha have led to improved access to education and healthcare in rural regions, promoting overall social upliftment.

**Micro-Enterprise Growth:** Programs encouraging micro-enterprises in sectors like dairy farming and handicrafts have shown potential for scalability and replication.

## **3.Challenges Faced by Social Entrepreneurs in Odisha**

**Objective:** To identify the key challenges hindering the growth of social entrepreneurship in Odisha, including financial, social, and regulatory barriers. The challenges identified in the literature include:

**Financial Constraints:** Limited access to formal credit and venture capital remains a primary challenge. High dependency on informal lending sources impacts scalability.

**Regulatory Barriers:** Entrepreneurs face bureaucratic delays and a lack of clear policy frameworks to support social enterprises.

**Social Barriers:** Cultural resistance, especially regarding women entrepreneurs, hinders the acceptance of social enterprises in rural communities.

**Market Access:** Many social enterprises struggle with poor infrastructure and limited access to regional, national, and international markets.

## **Conclusion of Findings**

In summary, the findings indicate that social entrepreneurship in Odisha has immense potential to drive women empowerment and rural development. However, addressing the financial, social, and regulatory challenges is crucial to unlocking its full potential. Collaboration between government agencies, private investors, and grassroots organizations will play a pivotal role in overcoming these challenges and scaling the impact of social entrepreneurship across the state.

## **CONCLUSION:**

Social entrepreneurship has emerged as a transformative approach to addressing social, economic, and environmental challenges, especially in developing regions like Odisha. This study aimed to critically review the role of social entrepreneurship in women empowerment, rural development, and the challenges faced by social entrepreneurs in Odisha. By synthesizing insights from a comprehensive review of literature, this research highlights the potential and limitations of social entrepreneurship in driving inclusive growth. The key conclusions are presented below, aligned with the objectives of the study.

### **1. Women Empowerment through Social Entrepreneurship**

The study concludes that social entrepreneurship has played a significant role in empowering women in rural Odisha, through the facilitation of Self-Help Groups (SHGs). These groups serve as a catalyst for economic independence and social inclusion. Women engaged in SHGs have reported enhanced self-esteem, improved decision-making abilities, and greater control over household resources. They have transitioned from traditional, subordinate roles to active participants in the local economy, contributing to the well-being of their families and communities. However, the empowerment achieved is often limited by societal barriers such as patriarchy, mobility restrictions, and inadequate access to education and markets. While SHGs provide a foundation for empowerment, their long-term

sustainability depends on the integration of training programs that focus on market access, digital literacy, and advanced entrepreneurial skills. Addressing these gaps would enable women to establish stronger, more sustainable enterprises and expand their role in regional economic development.

## **2. Impact of Social Entrepreneurship on Rural Development**

Social entrepreneurship has contributed significantly to rural development in Odisha by addressing critical issues such as unemployment, agricultural inefficiencies, and inadequate access to infrastructure. Enterprises focusing on agriculture and micro-enterprises have successfully introduced innovative solutions that improve productivity and promote sustainability. Initiatives like organic farming, renewable energy projects, and rural artisanship have created employment opportunities and diversified income sources, directly enhancing the livelihoods of rural communities.

Furthermore, social enterprises have improved access to essential services such as education sanitation in un`althcare, and /ed areas. Mobile health clinics, affordable education initiatives, and clean energy solutions have bridged service gaps and enhanced the quality of life in rural Odisha. These impacts underscore the potential of social entrepreneurship to act as a catalyst for inclusive and sustainable rural development.

However, the study also reveals significant constraints to scaling these initiatives. Poor infrastructure, lack of skilled manpower, and limited awareness among rural communities about the benefits of social innovations often impede progress. Overcoming these challenges requires multi-stakeholder collaborations involving the government , private sector, and civil societyorganisations. Policies aimed at improving rural infrastructureand fostering skill development programs could further amplify the impact of social entrepreneurship in Odisha.

## **3. Challenges Faced by Social Entrepreneurs in Odisha**

The research identifies several challenges hindering the growth of social entrepreneurship in Odisha. Financial constraints, including limited access to formal credit and venture capital, remain a primary barrier. Many social entrepreneurs rely on personal savings or informal borrowing, which restricts the scalability of their enterprises. High-interest rates from microfinance institutions and bureaucratic hurdles in accessing government funding further exacerbate these financial challenges. Regulatory barriers also pose significant difficulties. The lack of a clear policy framework for social enterprises often leads to delays in obtaining licenses, certifications, and subsidies. This regulatory ambiguity not only limits the operational efficiency of social enterprises but also deters potential investors. Addressing this issue requires a policy environment that recognizes and incentivizes social entrepreneurship through tax benefits, simplified registration processes, and dedicated funding schemes.

Social and cultural resistance, particularly in patriarchal communities, is another challenge. Many social entrepreneurs, especially women, face scepticism and lack of support from their families and communities. This resistance often stems from traditional mind-sets that undervalue women's contributions to the economy and limit their mobility and decision-making power. Addressing these cultural barriers requires targeted awareness campaigns and grassroots-level interventions to shift societal attitudes.

Finally, market access is a critical challenge for social entrepreneurs in Odisha. Limited connectivity, poor digital infrastructure, and lack of marketing expertise often prevent entrepreneurs from reaching regional, national, and global markets. Facilitating access to e-commerce platforms, establishing rural marketing hubs, and providingtraining in branding and customer engagement could address these issues.

### Implications for Policy and Practice

The findings of this study have several implications for policymakers, practitioners, and researchers in the field of social entrepreneurship. First, there is a need for an enabling policy environment that supports social enterprises through financial incentives, simplified regulations, and access to institutional credit. Government programs should be designed to address the unique needs of social enterprises, particularly those operating in rural and marginalized areas.

Second, capacity-building initiatives are essential to equip social entrepreneurs with the skills and resources needed to overcome operational challenges. Training programs on business management, digital marketing, and financial planning could significantly enhance the efficiency and impact of social enterprise.

Third, fostering collaborations between social enterprises, NGOs, and the private sector could create synergies that amplify the impact of social entrepreneurship. Public-private partnerships could facilitate access to funding, technology, and markets, enabling social enterprises to scale their operations and reach underserved populations.

Finally, there is a need for continuous research to evaluate the long-term impacts of social entrepreneurship initiatives and identify best practices. Future studies could focus on the role of technology in enhancing the scalability of social enterprises, the impact of gender-focused interventions, and the effectiveness of policy frameworks in promoting social entrepreneurship.

In conclusion, social entrepreneurship holds immense potential to drive women empowerment, rural development, and social transformation in Odisha. The success stories of SHGs, micro-enterprises, and grassroots innovations demonstrate the ability of social enterprises to address systemic challenges and create sustainable solutions. However, realizing the full potential of social entrepreneurship requires a concerted effort to address financial, regulatory, and social barriers.

By fostering an enabling ecosystem that supports innovation, collaboration, and inclusivity, Odisha can position itself as a model for social entrepreneurship-driven development. This requires coordinated action from government bodies, civil society organizations, private investors, and the social entrepreneurs themselves. As this study highlights, social entrepreneurship is not just a means of economic growth but a powerful tool for social justice and empowerment, capable of transforming the lives of the most vulnerable populations in society.

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