



**Centre for Social Entrepreneurship (CSE)  
School of Management and Labour Studies  
Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai (India)**

**South Asian Conference  
on  
Social Entrepreneurial Ecosystem  
17–19 January 2024**

**Concept Note**

Social enterprises pursue activities with the greatest possible positive social and environmental effects (Barone, 2022). Social enterprises can flourish in a proper ecosystem. The ecosystems are such geographical areas where different entities come and interact with each other to support social enterprises. Social entrepreneurs drive change through innovative solutions supported by the Ecosystem. Social enterprises substantiate through activities to fulfill societal needs. In the United States, after becoming president, Barack Obama formed the Office of Social Innovation. It aimed to facilitate innovative social solutions and partnerships. Social innovations respond to the dissatisfaction created by other innovations lacking community participation (Moulaert et al., 2013). Such innovations need to share their benefits with a larger community. The Social Entrepreneurial Ecosystem, therefore, is complex.

The 'study on the role of the start-up ecosystem in social entrepreneurship' is limited (Cheah & Ho, 2019). Innovation systems are becoming more oriented towards solving societal and environmental problems, followed by economic issues. Social entrepreneurship is a sector that aims to solve these problems (Gerli et al., 2021). Social entrepreneurs attempt to solve problems by collaborating with

stakeholders, leading to sustainable innovations (Kim et al., 2020). It becomes imperative for social entrepreneurship education programs to be designed to foster social entrepreneurs' abilities to enhance connectivity with relevant entities of the social enterprise ecosystem (ibid). The Ecosystem comprises the components, and the interaction of these components shall lead to an envisaged transformation of creating social entrepreneurs. As Isenberg (2011) stated, the entrepreneurial Ecosystem comprises six domains. These include policy, finance, Culture, support, human capital, and markets. A policy can provide a stimulating social business environment and hence the development. This presumption can lead to several questions concerning the Social Entrepreneurial Ecosystem. Social Entrepreneurial Culture is a kind of development that takes time.

According to the Asian Development Bank (2017), social enterprises operate in various fields, including finance, rural development, health, energy, and water. Impact investing is recognized as an alternative asset class. Skill development is an essential area for social enterprise activity. Further research established a close relationship between these domains and entrepreneurial activities. Creating a robust ecosystem requires new institutions backed by demand-generating policies (Surie, 2017). At a grassroots level, facilitating social entrepreneurs' entry, technological adoptions, and linkages to resource acquisition would also matter (ibid). The social entrepreneurship ecosystem thus appears multifaceted. While asserting the roles in generating an innovation ecosystem, Dehayir et al. (2018) stated that an innovation ecosystem requires several functions. These roles are ecosystem leadership roles, direct value creation roles like supplier development, value creation support roles by experts, and entrepreneurial ecosystem roles comprising entrepreneurs, regulators, and sponsors.

While arguing that the entrepreneurship ecosystem is *unique*, Isenberg (2011) mentioned that Israel's entrepreneurial ecosystem evolved due to military necessity and the lack of natural resources. In the context of proximity to European markets, foreign multinationals, and free education, Ireland's Ecosystem flourished. The continual accumulation of Taiwanese expatriates in the United States resulted in Taiwan's entrepreneurial Ecosystem. In a situation created due to the various regional policies, China's Ecosystem is now evolving. Among the Asian nations with a flourishing social enterprise sector are Singapore and the Philippines (Asian Development Bank, 2017). Do the apparent questions come from what is happening in India and South Asia? How is the social entrepreneurial Ecosystem evolving? Hence, by considering the outcomes from various research conducted at different time phases and the research gaps, if any, about an understanding of the social entrepreneurial Ecosystem, we at the Centre for Social Entrepreneurship, School of Management and Labour Studies, TISS, Mumbai, are organizing the **South Asian Conference on "Social Entrepreneurship Ecosystem" from 17 to January 19, 2024.**

We invite research scholars and practitioners to submit their works for discussion and deliberations. We propose the following sub-themes. These themes revolve around the question, what is a social entrepreneurial ecosystem? How to assess it? The sub-themes below are not exhaustive but indicative.

- **Policy expectations, interventions, and Social Entrepreneurial Ecosystem**
  1. Do the existing government policies impact the social enterprise ecosystem?
  2. What are policy-related expectations for the development of a social entrepreneurial ecosystem?
  3. How can non-governmental institutions intervene?
  
- **Understanding the finance needs of the Social Entrepreneurial Ecosystem**
  1. Does the Social Entrepreneurial Ecosystem create any economic value?
  2. How do the suppliers and lenders, as a part of the Social Entrepreneurial Ecosystem, deal with Social Entrepreneurial Enterprises?
  3. Does the development of the Social Entrepreneurial Ecosystem lack in getting financial support?
  4. Can social entrepreneurs ensure the economic renewal of their area of operation?
  
- **What culture should the Social Entrepreneurial Ecosystem imbibe?**
  1. Does gender make any difference in the development of the Social Entrepreneurial Ecosystem?
  2. Does the education system support the development of social entrepreneurial skills through appropriate integration?
  3. How does social entrepreneurship education respond to the challenges of imbibing the Culture?
  
- **What support does the Social Entrepreneurial Ecosystem require?**
  1. Should the Social Entrepreneurial Ecosystem be studied as a System?
  2. What inputs should be considered for the Social Entrepreneurial Ecosystem?
  3. What macro and micro-level environmental factors influence the Social Entrepreneurial Ecosystem?
  
- **The role of human capital in Social Entrepreneurial Ecosystem development**
  1. What is the Role of human capital in developing a social entrepreneurial ecosystem?
  2. Does the Ecosystem capture the entrepreneurial mindsets?

3. How do innovation and knowledge capabilities impact the development of a social entrepreneurial ecosystem?

- **Markets**

1. What are the market models where the social entrepreneurial ecosystem works or operates?
2. What is the nature of challenges to marketing practices adopted by Social Enterprises?
3. How do various stakeholders in the Ecosystem connect?

- **ESG goals and Social Entrepreneurial Ecosystem**

1. What roles does the Social Entrepreneurial Ecosystem play in advocating the ESG goals in the overall business ecosystem?
2. How can social enterprises address ESG Goals?
3. How do Social Enterprises help corporations achieve ESG goals for their organizations?

We invite theoretical and empirical research papers from researchers and scholars across the South Asia Region focusing on the above suggestive research questions. We also invite interested delegates to participate in the deliberations without submitting an article. Authors must submit **an extended abstract that includes the research background, objectives and methodology, findings, and conclusion in about 2000 words** to the Conference Convener at [cse.conference@tiss.edu](mailto:cse.conference@tiss.edu) before **30/08/2023**. Ph.D. scholars are encouraged to submit their research proposals. The relevance of papers with the conference theme and robust methodology would be the critical parameters for paper selection. The extended abstract must contain the author's name, institutional affiliation, contact number, email, and postal address. Authors will be informed about acceptance or revision by **10/09/2023**. The full paper can be submitted by **20/11/2023**.

Conference Registration will start on **15/12/2023**. The delegates, paper presenters, and co-authors expect to pay the registration fee as per the table below. Individual registration is required in case of papers written by multiple authors.

Nationality	Registration Fee without Accommodation for Students and Ph.D. Scholars (only those not availing fellowship and non-salaried)	Registration Fee without Accommodation	Registration Fee with Accommodation
Indian	INR 2000	INR 7000	INR 20000
International	USD 50	USD 200	USD 400

Registration fees are **NON-REFUNDABLE**.

Accommodations are limited and offered on a first-come-first-serve and twin-sharing basis. Registration Fee without Accommodation for the Conference covers Conference kit, lunch, and networking dinner. Registration Fee with Accommodation includes a Conference kit, networking dinner, breakfast, lunch, and dinner for four nights, from January 16 to 19, 2024.

The registration form and online payment links are provided below. The registration fee should be paid through the online link. Alternatively, the demand draft or multi-city cheque drawn in favor of the **Tata Institute of Social Sciences** payable at Mumbai shall also be accepted. Senders must write their names, addresses, and affiliations on the backside of the cheque or draft. The demand draft or multi-city cheque should be mailed to the following:

Dr. Surendra Kansara,  
Conference Convener,  
Centre for Social Entrepreneurship,  
School of Management and Labour Studies,  
Tata Institute of Social Sciences,  
V. N. Purav Marg, Deonar, Mumbai - 400 088 (Maharashtra)

**Conference Registration Fee Payment Link:** [https://support.tiss.edu/conf\\_regi\\_form/](https://support.tiss.edu/conf_regi_form/)

**Conference Registration:** <https://forms.gle/EFskb1yW9ULwBNf66>

List of keynote speakers: See below

### Important Dates

Submission of the Extended Abstract in the prescribed structure	30-08-2023
Notification of Acceptance of the Extended Abstract	27-09-2023
Submission of the Full Paper (First Draft)	25-10-2023
Submission of the Revised Full Paper	20-11-2023
Notification of Acceptance of the Revised Full Paper	12-12-2023
Registration Start date for Paper Presenters and other Delegates	28-12-2023
Conference Registration Ends	19-01-2024
PowerPoint Presentation Submission	07-01-2024
South Asian Conference	17–19 January 2024

Please address all conference-related communications to the following:

Dr. Surendra Kansara,  
Conference Convener,  
Centre for Social Entrepreneurship, School of Management & Labour Studies,  
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**Our Keynote Speakers (the list is subject to additions)**



**Prof. Anil K. Gupta**

CSIR Bhatnagar Fellow 2018-21; Founder, Honey Bee Network, SRISTI, GIAN and NIF; Visiting Faculty, IIMA & IITB; Academy Professor, ACSIR