

# **SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP AS A PATH FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: A SYSTEMATIC LITERATURE REVIEWS**

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Social entrepreneurship widely accepted as a vital tool for solving social issues in society and contributing country's sustainable development. While social entrepreneurship is not a novel phenomenon, this concept has experienced notable development over the past 20 years, either when used to solving social problems in a traditional manner, or concentrated on private sector entrepreneurship and large-scale conversion. In Sri Lanka Social Entrepreneurship (SE) is at an initial stage and it is valuable to discussing how SE can set the path for sustainable development. However, in Sri Lanka there is still a lack of research papers in this field, this may hinders the development of SE concept in the country. To bridle the existing gap this study aim to highlight the role of social enterprises in sustainable development. This study adopted a systematic literature review as a research methodology. Researcher examined and reviewed 108 research papers from the Scopus, Social Science Citation Index and Science Direct databases. To this end, the results are presented in the form of thematic discussion with six themes such as “dual objective of SE”, “SE and sustainability goal”, “ecological concern of SE”, “business strategy and value creation”, “innovation and SE” and “Social development and SE”. Finally this study can provide a perfect view of how scholars were investigate the field of SE in different angles and what remaining gaps require further investigation to contribute towards a systematic improvement of novel knowledge in the field of SE.

**Keywords:** *Social entrepreneurship; Social enterprises; Sustainable development; Systematic literature review; Thematic analysis*

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