

Mapping Challenges of Social Enterprises in Uva Province, Sri Lanka

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Today the social enterprises field in Sri Lanka faces numerous issues and challenges. It is rarely can find research about Social Enterprises in Sri Lanka. According to one amongst them, which had done by British Council, the geographical spread over the country of social enterprises in Sri Lanka, they are more clustered in the Western and Central provinces while they are less common in other provinces due to unable to access facilities and support service. Accordingly there is a gap to identify what the challenges are for the social enterprises which are in the provinces with the least number of social enterprises and why female social entrepreneurs are showing a dissimilar number of proportions within the urban area and non-urban area. In this study the researcher aimed the research population as the social enterprises in Uva Province which the less number of social enterprises are located, to map challenges of social enterprises and giving recommendations for further development of the social enterprises in Sri Lanka. Qualitative research was done under a purposeful sampling method by selecting the sample in accordance with the researcher's knowledge and satisfaction of achieving the objective of the research during the data collection process and the sample size was ten sample units of social enterprises in Uva Province. Through exploratory research, the data was collected by direct interview method and semi-structured open-ended questions were developed base on the research objectives of the study. In this study Thematic Analysis was used to analyze the data. Findings were main six challenges as "Institutional and operational challenges, Policy making and government-related challenges, the Governance structure related challenges, Locational and situational challenges, Diversity based challenges and Social, educational, and public awareness related challenges", and more specific challenges for Uva province are "Locational and situational challenges", "Social educational and public awareness related challenges" and "Diversity based challenges". As the recommendations, an exact policy regulation framework for the social enterprises in Sri Lanka is needed and the respectable parties should take actions to give solutions for the development of the social enterprises in Sri Lanka.

Keywords: Social enterprises; Social entrepreneurship; Mapping challenges; Thematic analysis; Diversity based challenges