

Social entrepreneurship and the nature of the impact achieved

Nnaemeka Chidozie Ubani^{1*}, Judith M. Kaduru², Nnamdi Onoche Duru¹ and B. C. Obi³

¹Department of Entrepreneurship Education, Alvan Ikoku University of Education, Owerri, Imo State, Nigeria.

²Department of Business Education, Alvan Ikoku University of Education, Owerri, Imo State, Nigeria.

³Center for Entrepreneurship Education, Alvan Ikoku University of Education, Owerri, Imo State, Nigeria.

Accepted 5 December, 2023

ABSTRACT

Society's most pressing needs all over the world have raised concerns which are comprehensive, deep and quick. The development of any nation depends on its social and economic strength as well as the contributions of its citizens. Their contribution now has an important place, but is only relatively recently that this contribution has been recognized by writers outside mainstream economic thinking. As attention has become more focused on the importance of entrepreneurship for economic security and the creation of employment opportunities, greater attention has been directed at the social enterprise sector. Thus, the new innovative culture has additionally spread to the social area. Progressively higher expectations are being set on social entrepreneurship in ameliorating social issues facing the world at large. Social entrepreneurship is a concept that covers the individual motivation and leadership behind the pursuit of social objectives. This can be best represented as the activity of pursuing social objectives through entrepreneurship. Accordingly, social business ventures can include a somewhat expansive scope of associations and organizations which acquire assets to implement social objectives. Therefore, the main purpose of this paper is to examine the impact of social entrepreneurship in addressing social issues facing the world. It will explain the importance of social entrepreneurship, its concepts, social issues as well as impacts of social entrepreneurship. Additionally, Nigeria was cited in most cases as an example of such an impact.

Keywords: Social entrepreneurship, social economy, sectors, social enterprise.

*Corresponding author. E-mail: ubanichidozie@gmail.com.

INTRODUCTION

Society's most pressing needs have raised concerns and debates among academicians, practitioners and organisations worldwide. It is a global challenge which seems to have defied a traditional approach. Social issues, an inclusive society as a society embedded each with rights and responsibilities with an active role to play (UNDP, 2006). The most affected countries believe that there are some countries without social and environmental issues but not knowing that it is a global challenge and that all countries of the world have a share in one way or another. Stuck by the bleak social issues, many individuals especially in developing nations like Nigeria have been subjected to sex in exchange for money, crime and violence, kidnapping and armed

robbery, insurgence and communal crisis among others which is a crucial situation.

Over the years, governments in power, both developing and developed nations have expressed concern and determination to ameliorate social issues facing the world. For instance in Nigeria, since the end of her civil war in 1970, various governments in power have emphasized the need for the eradication of social issues among the marginalized zones of the country by launching some programmes like the National Social Investment Programme (NSIP), Government Enterprise and Empowerment Programme (GEEP), the Home Grown School Feeding Programme (HGFS), N-Power programme, National Social Safety programme

(NASSCO), National Cash Transfer Programme otherwise called Trade Money, Grant for Vulnerable Group (GVG), Alternate School Programme (ASP). Also, there are some international agencies and organizations in Nigeria that are involved in some welfare and social work activities examples are Red Cross, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations International Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) which have consumed substantial amount of money in support of such government and donor agencies initiatives. All these interventions initiated by the government and that of international agencies and organizations have not delivered the range of benefits a comprehensive approach can and this is evidence that social issues are still a national problem. However, while some of these initiatives address the issues relating to social challenges, others discuss poverty and unemployment issues. The use of social entrepreneurship as an agent of modern social change has largely been overlooked by the government. Therefore, the main purpose of this paper is to examine the impact of social entrepreneurship in addressing social issues facing the world. It will also focus on literature and processes on the impact of social entrepreneurship. Additionally, Nigeria was cited in most cases as an example of such an impact.

History and concepts

The terms social economy and third sector according to Davis-Kean (2005) are used to refer to social entrepreneurship in a general sense. Historically, the term social economy dates back to the twentieth century meaning to change (e.g. poverty, inequality) as a result of the consequence of an industrial revolution in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. In the English-speaking world, the preferred term in scholarly research, until relatively recently was voluntary or not-for-profit sector. In France and some other continental European countries, the term social economy has been in wider use for over a couple of decades. The difference between Anglo and France organizational forms explains this difference, with the former more closely tied to charitable causes and communities while the latter is based on the notion of political liberty and free association. Social entrepreneurship itself became popular in the 1970s and since then it has stimulated increasing interest in the social enterprise policy agenda of various countries example in Britain, social entrepreneurship has been promoted by the likes of commentator Charles Lead Beater and Bill Drayton of Ashoka. The term social enterprise over the past two decades has also been carried to refer to innovative and financially sustainable

activities targeted at society, problem while the third sector point incorporates an array of such activities.

The entrepreneur

The idea that the entrepreneur has a significant role in economic development has been developed by writers outside mainstream economic thinking. Hisrich and Peters (2002) traced the concepts as follows:

1. During the Middle Ages, the entrepreneur was seen as an actor and person in charge of large-scale projects.
2. In the 17th century, the entrepreneur was seen as somebody who bears risks of profit or loss in a fixed price contract with the government.
3. In 1725, Richard Cantillian described an entrepreneur as a person bearing risks different from one who supplies capital.
4. In 1934, Joseph Schumpeter described an entrepreneur as an innovation who develops an untried technology.
5. In 1961 David Mclelland described an entrepreneur as an energetic moderate risk taker.
6. In 1964 Peter Drucker stated that an entrepreneur is an individual who maximizes opportunities.
7. In 1975 Albert Shapero defined an entrepreneur as a person who takes initiative, organizes some social and economic mechanisms and accepts risks of failure.

According to Oduma (2012), an entrepreneur means different things to different people, accordingly he observed that:

- To an economist, an entrepreneur is an essential element in generating investment opportunities.
- To a sociologist, an entrepreneur is an energizer in the modernization of societies.
- To a psychologist, the entrepreneur is an entrepreneur man and tries to decipher him as a character of economic development.
- The political scientist sees an entrepreneur as a child of the political system.
- To a businessman, an entrepreneur appears as a threat to another entrepreneur (Onoh, 2004).

Entrepreneurship is crucial for rapid national economic growth (Chigunta et al., 2005), especially for youth development. It is the main hope of developing nations, in particular Nigeria to increase their per capita income (Oduma, 2012) and most parts of Africa. According to Nwaiwu (2010), Entrepreneurship is the life wire of national economic growth of nations as well as a driving force behind the rapid growth of the social sector. Entrepreneurship is not just about how individuals run businesses, but also about encouraging creative thinking

and promoting a strong sense of worth and accountability (Awajobi, 2006). Therefore, entrepreneurship is a force that controls other factors of production such as land, Labour and capital, it is a process of creating value by coordinating scarce economic resources to exploit business opens. It is also the facilitator of human business interest and the positive attitude required for the establishment of new businesses for profit maximization.

In the last two decades, it has been very difficult for scholars to conclude what constitutes the definition of social entrepreneurship. For instance, social entrepreneurship has been defined as:

- As an entrepreneurial activity with an embedded social mission (Austin et al., 2006).
- As the sector is located between the private and the public sector, it operates in accordance with the social mission and requires an entrepreneurial spirit (European Commission, 2010).
- It is regarded as the establishment of social enterprises (Harding, 2006).
- Is the process of pursuing suitable solutions to social problems (Abu-Saifan, 2012).
- Individuals with the primary objective focused on social values creation as a vital condition to ensure the viability of social change.
- A simultaneous pursuit of social and economic change through enterprising ventures as a response to social challenges (Peredo and Mclean, 2006).
- Encompasses the creation of value through the fusion of capital technology, risk-taking, pass and decline to accept shortfalls in resources (Rogers, 2003).
- Other scholars call it the catalyst for national economic growth (Nicholls, 2006; Haugh, 2005; Institute for Social Entrepreneurs, 2021; Thompson et al., 2000).

However, it is a clear fact that there is no consensus as opposing views and approaches emerge from the literature, all seem to be saying the same thing in different forms.

Social entrepreneur

Enthusiasm towards the role of entrepreneurship in economic development has impacted the development of social entrepreneurship in the last few decades. Thus, the new entrepreneurship culture has also spread to the social sector. Increasingly higher expectations are being set on social entrepreneurship in terms of addressing the needs in the social sector and achieving social economic security.

Social entrepreneurs are people or organizations that use economic and technical innovation to achieve social goals (Noya, 2009) social entrepreneurs are individuals often seen to be possessed by their ideas committing

their lives to changing the direction of their field (Alvord et al., 2002). They are ambitious and persistent, tackling major social issues from increasing the college enrolment rate of low-income students to fighting poverty.

Social entrepreneurs act as change agents for society, seizing opportunities others miss to improve systems, invent new approaches and create solutions to change society for the better.

Social issues

No doubt that social entrepreneurial activity affects economic growth, reduces poverty and improves large-scale social development. Hence it becomes very important to specify what is meant by social issues. It is also known as a social problem/challenge affecting every society, great or small. It's virtually impossible to avoid them.

The list of social issues is huge and not identical from area to area (Wikipedia, 2016). In Nigeria, for example, some predominant social issues include poverty, corruption, inequality, terrorism, high child mortality rate, unemployment, tribalism, domestic violence, drug abuse, prostitution, ritual killings and examination malpractice.

Other issues that may be considered social problems that are not common in Nigeria and other developing nations, but are huge problems in Developed nations like the US are gun violence, human rights, healthcare, gender inequity, pollution sexism, unemployment etc. The above-mentioned social issues both in great and small nations inhibit the development of society. More so, all these social issues are related to each other and could seem hard to address one without addressing all.

Therefore, it is important to know that social challenges within a society affect its interaction with other societies, which may lead to global problems, that says how other nations deal with the problems of the developing nation may continue affecting its relationship with the rest of the world for years to come. The very nature of social issues suggests that society itself is a problem (Kane, 2010). No nation has a perfect society where all live happily and where no problems exist. Perhaps this is prevented by the nature of humans, thereby making it impossible to achieve meaningful goals.

The emergency of social entrepreneurship and its contribution to addressing society's most pressing and daunting social issues is quite visible all over the world. Evidence to prove this is the attention being accorded to the field in recent times by institutions of higher learning across the globe by mounting courses at different levels of degree. Also, a traceable fact to the contribution of social entrepreneurship as a major player in finding solutions to social and economic problems that are constraint by free market thinking and policies could be found in the Nobel Peace Prize award given to the

founder of the Grameen Bank, the world largest micro-credit organisation Muhammad Yunus in 2006 to provide small loans to people, mainly women to alleviate poverty in Bangladesh. Besides that, the general public is embracing it as a solution to the crisis hitting the global economies (National Directorate of Employment, 2000; European Commission, 2010).

The recognition of the importance of social entrepreneurship practice seems to have stimulated a growing level of scholars' and Practitioners' interest. Hence, two schools of thought have risen namely; the social enterprises school of thought and the social innovation school of thought which were critical to the development of the field of social entrepreneurship.

According to the social enterprise school of thought, the main purpose is business strategy to mass alternative income with the purpose of social mission. This school of thought sees social entrepreneurship as autonomous from any government and its agency's support in delivering its social mission activities. Scholars of this school of thought example Fine (2001) claimed that the social enterprise is built in the profit domain to become commercial by adopting a business strategy. Social enterprise operates in the following ways, such as a sole proprietor, incorporated organisation and partner. Yunus (2010) claimed that social businesses are related to mission-driven approaches that embed strong conditions designed to address social issues. The purpose behind adopting a business strategy in social mission is to overcome some of the barriers in non-profit organisations such as inadequate human capital and lack of sufficient funds to support their operation. In addition, it adopts the method of self-sufficiency in its activities to ensure sustainability in marketplaces. Therefore, social enterprise is directly involved in the business strategy to earn income to support its running of the day-to-day activities.

The social innovation school of thought emphasises innovation as an attitude of social entrepreneurship where they are denoted as key agents of change in human creativity development and talent in business, replacing the existing products, processes, and ideas with one's new to impact on society. Scholars of this school of thought defined social entrepreneurship as an individual who seeks to reform the method of production innovatively to move economic resources from the low to higher level. Scholars like Dees and Anderson are of the view that social innovation should be emphasized to create new and better ways to address social issues (Dees and Anderson, 2006).

The slight difference witnessed in the conditions between the incomes earned strategy and the social innovation school of thought should not be overemphasized. Dees and Anderson (2006) opined that the view of the two schools of thought stands out to balance the social purposes and economic growth of the society. Schumpeter (1934) cited in Johnson (2010) in

their efforts to conceptualize social entrepreneurship from the innovation school of thought laid much emphasis on the social entrepreneur as a person who innovatively deals with complex social issues. Business venture is not a necessary tool of entrepreneurship but innovation to strike a balance between the social needs and its operation can positively influence social development and economic growth at the same time (Zahra, 2007).

Notable leaders and individual foundations can be considered as the argument of the school of thought. The American tradition supports the social enterprise school of thought. Bill Drayton the founder of the Ashoka Foundation Vinoba Bhave (India), the founder and leader of the land Gift movement, Dr. Maria Montessori (Italy) developed the Montessori approach to early childhood education, Robert Owen was a Welsh textile manufacturer, philanthropist and social reformer and a founder of utopian socialism and co-operative movement (UK), John Muir (US) naturalist and conservationist established national park system, Jean Monnet (France) responsible for the reconstruction of the French economic following World War II, Brighter Ghana F owner (Ghana), Olakunle Joe Adewale (Nigeria) Founder Tender Art, Amina Temilope Ayayi (aka mama Diaspora) (Nigeria), founder/CEO Nigerian American Agricultural Empowerment Programme (NAAEP) are example of few leading personality for the social innovation school of thought. In the context of social entrepreneurship, opportunities are found in social needs.

The definition of social entrepreneurship has generated a lot of debates among research scholars to reach a common consensus. Considering the difference in the definition of social entrepreneurship by the two schools of thought, basic points of interest are noted, Social entrepreneurship is innovative rather than doing the same thing all over while the other one is an innovation that cuts across creating social value within the non-profit business or government sector (Austin et al., 2006). Dees and Anderson (2006) opined that social entrepreneurship entails a wider range of activities that encompasses organisation and business, suggesting a consensus on a definition. Also on the other hand, scholars of the school of social enterprise advocate an establishment such as government agencies and charity organisations. Examples of such institutions include the Social Benefits Institute an institute of the Miller Centre for Social Entrepreneurship at Santa Clara University in Silicon Valley, California to help social businesses grow through a specific approach that pairs up social entrepreneurs with Silicon Valley mentors. Toolboksi in Tanzania helps to reduce unemployment in the informal sector by connecting people seeking carpentry, plumbing or construction work with local artisans and handymen skilled in those areas. Mpharama is a Ghana-based social enterprise that helps manage prescription inventory for pharmacies to make medicines more affordable for Africans. In Nigeria, Farm Crodwy a digital

leading platform which helps to reduce hunger and poverty by increasing food production, and Siyabaddy, a recycling and waste management company that help to create job while helping the environment in South Africa. Similarly, in Sierra Leone, Easy Solar provides pay-as-you-go-solar-powered lighting and charging systems to people with no electricity access. In addition, BRAC University in Bangladesh was founded in 2001 by Fazle Hasan Abed as an initiative to build resources across communities to foster entrepreneurship and social entrepreneurship. Also, Social Lab, an initiative that supports and promotes social change was founded in 2008 with offices in Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Mexico and Uruguay. They support social entrepreneurs in the primary stages of the venture.

Processes

For any organisation to record a remarkable success in its venture, it must adopt some procedures. Therefore, Social entrepreneurship is not exempted from that in rendering its unique services for the most depressed society in the world. The following are processes adopted by social entrepreneurship for an inclusive activity.

- i. Identification of social problems.
- ii. Development of a social goal.
- iii. Development of support and strategy.
- iv. Development of a sustainable model.
- v. Regular impact assessment.

Impact achieved

It is noted that society is dominated by social issues and social entrepreneurship is the engine of social development and economic growth. Amawhule (1998) cited in Nwaiwu (2013) believed that people and government had hardly explored the potential possessed by social entrepreneurship. The researcher opined that social entrepreneurship is the vehicle for rapid social development and economic growth of any nation. Oduma (2012) argued that social entrepreneurship accounts for over forty per cent of the development in Nigeria. Hockerts (2006) is of the view that economic development is a factor of industrialization characterised by the increasing growth of social entrepreneurship. This social entrepreneurship makes invaluable contributions to the economies of both developing and developed nations. It is a sure pathway to the liberation of society and the improvement of the socio-economic status of individuals. Thus, Social entrepreneurship is responsible for stimulating society for economic growth, contributing to the transformation of the most socially depressed society into a modern one, creating employment, reducing poverty and serving as a training ground

(Seelos and Mair, 2005). Social entrepreneurship activities denominate in the economies of many developing nations. Essentially, it assists in achieving the much-desired sustainable development goals on the agenda of the United Nations. It specifically assists society in addressing poverty and unemployment caused by social challenges. Social entrepreneurship activities equally help to make socially challenged communities more functional. Most importantly, it enables communities to be innovative and creative in visualising business opportunities in their environment. Social entrepreneurship has been high on the economic agenda of many nations example in Britain. Social entrepreneurship can be credited with the following benefits.

- i. Provision of quality health care services to socially depressed society by setting up an affordable health care system that guarantees access to drugs and free medical tests. Also, educate patients who in turn cover the gap experienced personally. A good example of a social entrepreneur in this regard is Florence Nightingale who provided health care services for wounded soldiers and also trained Nurses free of charge in Nigeria. Another good example of the activities of social entrepreneurship is the mother-to-mother, who engages in the identification of mothers with HIV, supports and educates them, empowering them, by providing treatment for them and their babies thereby putting an end to stigma.
- ii. Social entrepreneurship has impacted in no small measure by providing quality education that has helped reduce the high rate of school dropouts which is responsible for crime in the world. Their impact includes providing infrastructure, instructional materials for effective teaching and learning, and training of teachers at different levels (Kane, 2010).
- iii. Again, Social entrepreneurship has done much in the area of human rights such as equality, peace and justice by raising public awareness and engaging government on the issues relating to human rights. An example of this is the role of the Stars of Hope Society in Palestine, which advocates for equal rights for Palestinians with disabilities by engaging and lobbying the government to enforce existing laws such as a five per cent quota among all employment opportunities.
- iv. Social entrepreneurship has performed creditable well in addressing environmental challenges by providing sustainable services, such as engaging government and captains of industries in reducing the ecological footprint.
- v. Reduction of regional economic imbalances and contributing to the industrialization of the environment. Their result transforms existing realities, opens up new pathways and unlocks the potential to

- effect social changes (Dees, 2001).
- vi. Social entrepreneurship has played an important role in emerging economies where lack of resources and corruption among government officials inhabits the attention given to a multiplicity of social and environmental issues. This suggests that the basic essence of social entrepreneurship is to provide mitigation against economic downturns (Bornstein, 2005).
 - vii. It also has driven accountability that attracts additional social investment that facilitates economic growth. For instance, in Nigeria, donor agencies prefer to work with social entrepreneurs to address social issues in internally displaced camps. They do not only have to identify opportunities for social change, they also muster the resources necessary to turn these opportunities into reality (Mair and Marti, 2006).
 - viii. Above all, Social entrepreneurship provides an enabling environment that guarantees job opportunities.

Although it is difficult for the researchers here to present clear or accurate statistics on the level of impact achieved by social entrepreneurship, a mere observation confirms the fact that social entrepreneurship has creditably done well in addressing social issues across the globe, particularly in Nigeria. Therefore, the relevance of social entrepreneurship cannot be overemphasized due to its unique services or products for the most depressed society in the world.

CONCLUSION

The recognition of the importance of social entrepreneurship by institutions of higher learning across the globe is a welcome development. This new discipline is often referred to as social entrepreneurship. If this recognition is properly followed and maintained with diligent administrative and infrastructural provisions including constructivist instructional delivering strategy in the subject areas, it will assist to re-channel the mindset of the recipient while in school on the need for social entrepreneurship services. This nascent recognition will make the society more functional and as well as decentralise economic activities to the benefit of the society. As the level of poverty, frustration and social vices continue to soar among the society; it is equally believed that social entrepreneurship will be a panacea in assisting the most depressed society of the world. To achieve all the objectives of the sustainable development goals of the United Nations, universities, academicians, practitioners and policymakers have a very significant role to play in the realization of these targets. The institutions of higher learning need to focus on the new subject area properly. A social entrepreneurship activity appears indispensable in this regard because it is a

tremendous force that has a huge impact on economic recovery and societal progress. The system should involve practitioners and social institutes to help provide recipients with practical experience in social entrepreneurship activities. This professional service will assist us in achieving the much-desired functional society of our dreams.

REFERENCES

- Abu-Saifan, S. (2012).** Social entrepreneurship: Definition and boundaries. *Technology Innovation Management Review*, pp. 22-27.
- Alvord, S. H., Brown, L. D., and Letts, C. W. (2002).** Social entrepreneurship and social transformation: An exploratory study (November 2002). Available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=354082> or <http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.354082>.
- Austin, J. E., Stevenson, H., and Wei-Skillern, J. (2006).** Social and commercial entrepreneurship: Same, different, or both? *Entrepreneurship Theory and Practice* 30(1): 1-22.
- Awajobi, A. O., (2006).** Entrepreneurship as an aspect of vocational education. *Business Education Journal* 5(2): 8-14.
- Bornstein, D. (2005).** How to change the world: Social entrepreneurs and the power of new ideas. New Delhi: Penguin Books.
- Chigunta, F., Schnurr, J., James-Wilson, D., and Veronica, T. (2005).** Being real about youth entrepreneurship in Eastern and Southern Africa: Implications for adults, institutions and sector structures. SEED Working. *International Labour Office* 72: 1-105. Geneva.
- Davis-Kean, P. E. (2005).** The influence of parent education and family income on child achievement: The indirect role of parents, expectations and the home environment. *Journal of Family Psychology*, 19(2): 294-304.
- Dees, G. (2001).** The meaning of social entrepreneurship. Online paper retrieved from www.fugua.duke.edu/centers/case/documents/dees_se.pdf 20th July, 2023.
- Dees, J. G., and Anderson, B. B. (2006).** Framing a theory of social entrepreneurship: Building on two schools of practice and thought in Research on Social Entrepreneurship: Understanding and Contributing to an Emerging Field. *ARNOVA Occasional*, 1(3): 39-66.
- European Commission (2010).** Eurostat: Small and medium-sized enterprise (SMES). Retrieved http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/european_business/specialtopics/small_medium_sized_entreprise_SMEs. Accessed 7th July, 2023.
- Fine, B. (2001).** Social capital versus Theory. London: Routledge
- Harding, R. (2006).** GEM Social Entrepreneurship Monitors: United Kingdom 2006. London: Business School.
- Haugh, H. (2005).** A research agenda for social entrepreneurship: *Social Enterprise Journal*, 6: 1- 12.
- Hisrich, R. D., and Peters, M. P. (2002).** Entrepreneurship. Boston: McGraw Hill.
- Hockerts, K. (2006).** Entrepreneurial opportunity in social purpose business ventures; In J. Mair, J. Robertson and K.Hockerts (eds), *Social Entrepreneurship*. London: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Johnson, M. A. (2010).** Fundamental of Entrepreneurship in Owerri, Imo State. Owerri: Tamtam Publishers.
- Kane, T. (2010)** The Importance of Starting in Job: Creation and Job destruction. Kansas City, MO. Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation
- Mair, J., and Marti, I. (2006).** Social entrepreneurship research: A source of explanation, production and delight. *Journal of World Business*, 41: 36-44.
- National Directorate of Employment (2000).** Year 2000 Annual Report (NDE). Generating Job for All. Abuja.
- Nicholls, A. (2006).** Playing the failed: A new approach to the meaning of social Entrepreneurship. *Social Enterprise Journal*, 2: 1-5.
- Noya, A. (2009).** The changing boundaries of social enterprises: Paris. OECD.
- Nwaiwu, B. (2010).** Introduction to entrepreneurship (1st ed). Great

- Stars Publishing. Co. Nigeria.
- Nwaiwu, B. N. (2013).** The fundamentals of entrepreneurship. Imo State: Great Stars Publishers International Company.
- Oduma, C. A. (2012).** Fundamental of entrepreneurship education. Ebonyi State: Abakaliki Citizen Advocates Publishers.
- Onoh, C. E. C. (2004).** The potential entrepreneurs. Enugu: Cheston Books.
- Peredo, A., and Mclean, M. (2006).** Social entrepreneurship: A critical review of the concept. *Journal of World Business*, 41: 56-65.
- Rogers, E. (2003).** Diffusion of Innovations (5th ed). New York: Free Press.
- Thompson, J., Alvy, G., and Lees, A. (2000).** Social entrepreneurship: A new look at the people and the potential. *Management Decision*, 1(38): 328 – 338
- United Nations Development Programme (**UNDP**) (**2006**). Niger Delta Human Development Report. Lagos: UNDP. http://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/nigeria_hdr_report.pdf (Retrieved 13 January, 2023).
- Wikipedia (2016).** Sustainable Development: History. Retrieved from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/sustainable_development 3/05/2016.
- Yunus, M. (2010).** Building Social Business: The New Kind of Capitalism that Serves Humanity's Most Pressing Needs. New: Public Affairs.
- Zahra, S. (2007).** Conceptualizing theory building in entrepreneurship. *Research Journal of Business Venture*, 22: 443-452.

Citation: Ubani, N. C., Kaduru, J. M., Duru, N. O., and Obi, B. C. (2023). Social entrepreneurship and the nature of the impact achieved. *Net Journal of Social Sciences*, 11(4): 124-130.
