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Title

Social Entrepreneurial Opportunities for Post-Disaster Recovery: Emergence and Change

Abstract

Research literature on disaster management and social entrepreneurship have largely developed independently with very little linkages. Yet, recent observations point to an abundant but underexplored phenomenon where social enterprises emerge after a large-scale disaster such as earthquakes (Haiti in 2010, New Zealand in 2011), tsunamis (Japan in 2011), hurricanes (New Orleans, USA in 2005), bushfires (Victoria, Australia in 2009) and super-typhoons (Leyte, Philippines in 2013).

Disaster management studies often focus on the role of government, businesses, non-government organizations, and community-based organizations; but it has devoted almost no attention to hybrid actors such as social enterprises, which are neither purely for-profit nor non-profit, instead are organizations that combine business and social welfare logics. As such, there is little knowledge about how these hybrid actors emerge and contribute (or do not contribute) to long-term recovery in post-disaster areas. The social enterprise literature, on the other hand, has seldom paid attention to contextual elements in the emergence and development of hybrids, save for a few studies that factor in temporal and spatial elements in their research. However, situational context such as a large-scale disaster and its aftermath is understudied based on recent literature review.

This paper tries to bring the two literatures closer by exploring the emergence and change of social enterprises in post-disaster areas. In particular, it explores how social entrepreneurial opportunities change over time as social entrepreneurs find ways to help survivors recover from the disaster. The study is set in Leyte and Samar, Philippines, two regions left devastated by super-typhoon Haiyan when it made landfall in 8 November 2013. The research employs an inductive multiple
case study of 8 social enterprises, tracking their development and change since their inception. Finally, the paper attempts to contribute to public policy discussions about how post-disaster recovery management can “build back better”.

**Keyword**

Social Entrepreneurship, Opportunities, Post-disaster Recovery