Abstract Reference Number: h01

Author

Arnil Paras, Yanto Chandra

Title

Social Entrepreneurial Opportunities for Post-Disaster Recovery: Victim Perspective

Abstract

The study of how entrepreneurial opportunities are discovered or created is at the heart of entrepreneurship research (Shane, 2003). Empirical researches focus on the enterprise founders and organisational leaders in the way they seek or create business opportunities to be exploited. Yet, this is a one-way approach. Shepherd (2015) argued that opportunities emerge from the interaction of various enterprise stakeholders, founders being one of them but also other actors like investors, organisation partners, employees, consumers and beneficiaries. Thus, by conceptualising opportunity in this way, he takes away the monopoly from the entrepreneur or business leader; instead he expands the field of influence to other actors.

Following Shepherd, this paper takes the argument a step further. It conceptualises opportunity not as a singular overarching idea in an enterprise, but as a multiple reality where various organisational members pursue different opportunities within the organisation. In other words, there is not one opportunity to be exploited, there are multiple opportunities being exploited by different stakeholders groups within the same organisation.

With this proposed model, the paper shifts the empirical focus to employees as beneficiaries of work-integration social enterprises (Campi et al. 2006) in a post-disaster environment in central Philippines as exploratory case study site. It asks the question: How do employees as beneficiaries of work-integration SEs exploit opportunities to economically recover in the post-disaster environment? Methodologically, an ethnographic approach and in-depth interviews were employed.

The key findings are three-fold. Firstly, beneficiaries collect a portfolio of economic opportunities to recover from the disaster and alleviate themselves out of poverty. Opportunities presented by social enterprises are only one of the many means. They combine it with informal work,
livelihood programs provided by international organisations, dole-outs from charitable institutions, government welfare, and remittances from relatives living abroad or cities that are more progressive. Secondly, the economic opportunity portfolio that they pursue can confuse the beneficiaries on how social enterprises are supposed to function, sometimes confusing them as dole-out charitable organisations where work and financial benefits are not tied together. Thirdly, the confusion has significant human resource management implications in terms of the dissonance between the expectations of beneficiaries from those of the social enterprise leaders.

**Keyword**

Social Entrepreneurship, Opportunities, Post-disaster Recovery, Victim Perspective