



Transforming developing Asian cities with social entrepreneurship

The Problem

- Inadequate sanitation affects 2.5 billion people (1/3 of global population) living in developing cities where there are minimal conventional sewerage systems.
- Low sanitation coverage combined with poor solid waste management and unregulated wastewater discharge are leading to severe water pollution and increased health and environmental risks.
- Despite aspirations to achieve universal access to water and sanitation by 2030 under the new UN Sustainable Development Goals, some scholars estimate it will take another 60 years before improved sanitation reach poor and marginalised citizens under existing policies and practices.
- Improving sanitation for the poor requires transformative changes in technology and infrastructure design, service delivery functions, finance mechanisms, governance practices and thinking, taking into consideration the socio-economic development of marginalised citizens and environmental sustainability.



Figure 1: Multiple dimensions of sanitation

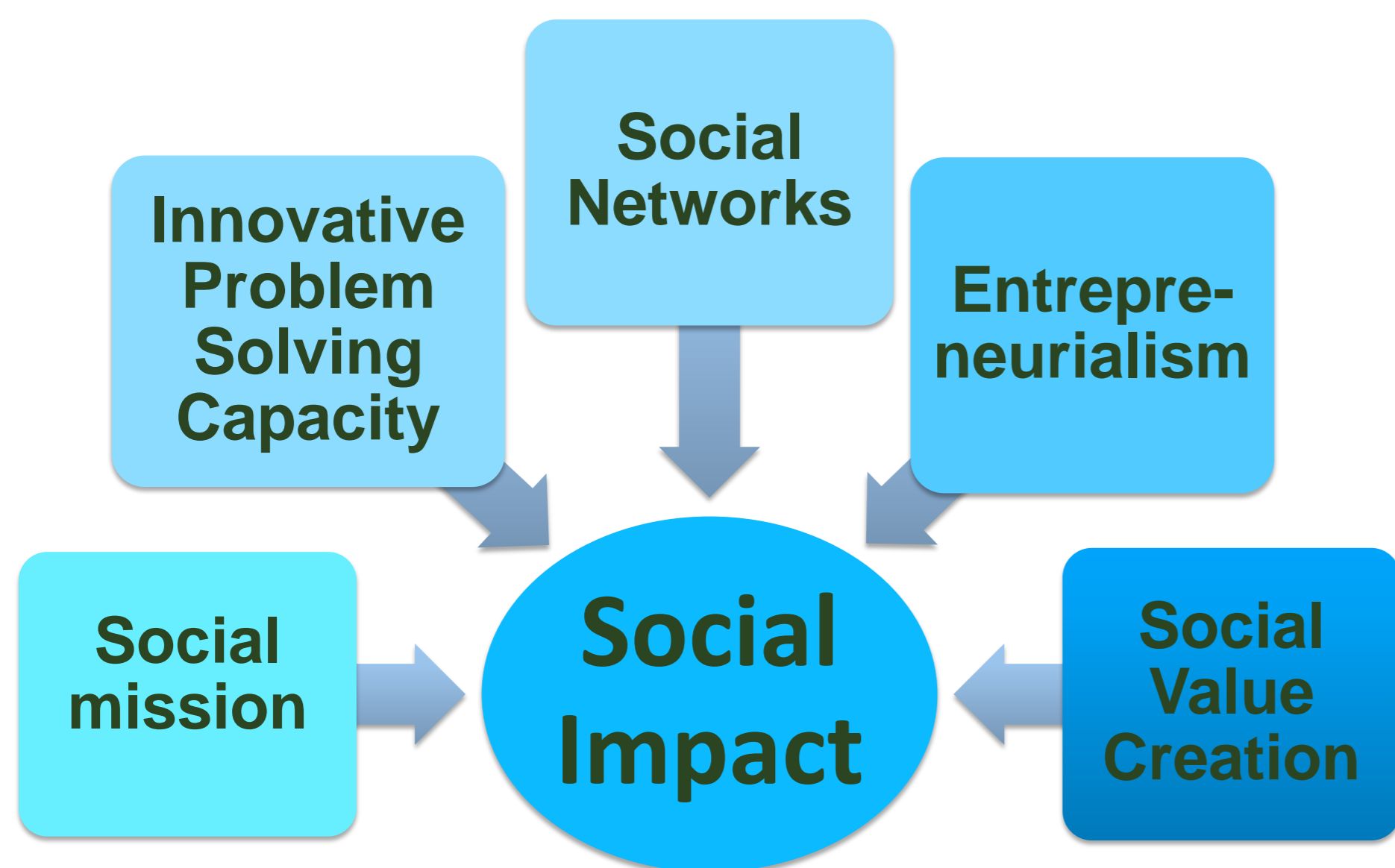


Figure 2: The Six Pillars of Social Innovation

The solution

- In developing cities where small-and-medium-sized enterprises play vital roles in the economy, **social entrepreneurs** have emerged as key players in improving sanitation for the poor.
- The concept is closely related to **social innovation**, widely recognised for its ability to tackle complex social and environmental problems while catalysing systemic change.
- The two alternative practices are increasingly supported by a global network of organisations and initiatives including the *EU (2020) Strategy*, yet their transformative capacities remain relatively unexplored in the sustainable development discourse.
- The capacity, creativity and opportunities of social entrepreneurship, combined with the beneficial impacts of sanitation on the SDGs, can potentially alter the course of development towards sustainability in developing cities.

Research aims & objections

This research aims to explicate the role that social entrepreneurs play in delivering transformative changes within the urban sanitation sector in Indonesia through:

- Characterising the strategies and processes used by social entrepreneurs in creating platforms for change
- Exploring individual and stakeholder perspectives on the role of social entrepreneurship in effecting change towards sustainable, resilient and equitable urban water management
- Developing an exploratory framework that outlines the roles and strategies of social entrepreneurship

This research will benefit developing cities aspiring to leapfrog towards sustainable, liveable, resilient and equitable urban water management.

Life under water (14)	Gender Equality (5)	Zero Hunger (2)
Reduce Poverty (1)	Sustainable Cities & Communities (11)	Quality Education (4)
Sustainable Production & Consumption (12)	Social Entrepreneurship in Sanitation	Infrastructure, Industry & Innovation (9)
Economic Development & Employment (8)		Reduce Inequality (10)
Health & Wellbeing (3)		Social Justice (16)
Clean Energy (7)	Sustainable Partnership (17)	Water & Sanitation (6)
	Climate Change (13)	Terrestrial Ecosystems (15)

Social entrepreneurship in sanitation directly contributes to the components in the inner circle, with potential to impact components in the outer circle

Figure 3: Sanitation, Social Entrepreneurship and the SDGs