

BUSINESS PROFITS OR/AND SOCIAL BENEFITS: INTERVIEW STUDY ON FIVE TAIWANESE SOCIAL ENTERPRISES

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Abstract

Social enterprise is the new form of organization pursuing both business profits and social benefits. Social enterprise is designed to deal with the social problems those neither handled by ordinary corporates nor public policies. A good social enterprise could maintain its operation and serve the minorities and weak while perhaps generate financial profits for shareholders as well as employees. However, the nature of pursuing business profits and social benefits differ in every aspect. How could social enterprises reach both? This paper started with the discussion of social enterprises' definition and development, then to examine the challenges and difficulties. The literature review illuminated the differences of business model of social enterprise in Taiwan and in the world, so that the readers could see the deeper business operation and financial allocation in the public and private sector. Moreover, how did the social enterprise reach the balance between the self-profits and social benefits. The study adopted the interview approach to study selected five Taiwanese social enterprises. The overall implications are first, the researcher found that the definition in the social enterprises stayed in an indistinct situation, and it made the Taiwanese social enterprises live with various types of mode. Second, most of the social enterprises faced with the lack of the resources, including the human resources and financial subsidy from the public and private sector. It hampered their further development. Third, for the employees and shareholders in the social enterprises, it was still a controversy about the dividend and annual bonus because of the policy formulation and definition from the public sector. Last, gap between different generations created problems of communication and operation inside social enterprises.

Key word: Social Enterprise, Business Profits, Social Benefits, Social Policy, NGO.