

A quick guide to understanding social enterprises

Cheat Sheet

What are 'social enterprises'?

Social enterprises are businesses with a social mission.

Background

There is a growing trend in the numbers of social enterprises emerging around the world. This follows the increase in awareness and interest in combining businesses with social causes.

The beginnings of social enterprises can be traced back to as early as the 1840s. In Rochdale, United Kingdom, a workers' cooperative was set up to produce quality food at an affordable cost. This was made in response to exploitative factory conditions.

Origins



Types

The causes supported by social enterprises cover a wide range, including environmental, social and even health causes.



What are some examples in local companies?

Internal impact:

A-changin

Employs disadvantaged women to provide alteration services.

External impact:

Food for Thought

Seeks to improve lives through charity donations from profits.

Bagosphere²

Provides vocational training programmes for youths in rural areas at an affordable cost.

Who are the people behind social enterprises³?

The people that make up or operate social enterprises come from various backgrounds. They include:

community groups



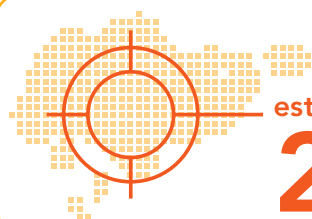
students



corporations



Social Enterprises in Singapore



estimated
200 active social
enterprises
currently

In Singapore, the Social Enterprise Association⁴ serves as the umbrella organisation that promotes social entrepreneurship.

Find out more about other types of social enterprises!
(Refer to "Searching for Social Enterprises")

Sources:

¹ Cheng, W. (2013, 16 Feb) 'What makes a social enterprise?' *The Straits Times*, p. D6

² Bagosphere (2013) 'About Bagosphere', Retrieved from: <http://www.bagosphere.com/about-bagosphere>

³ Social Enterprise UK, (2011) 'Social Enterprise Explained', Retrieved from: http://www.socialenterprise.org.uk/uploads/editor/files/Publications/Social_Enterprise_Explained.pdf

⁴ SE Association (2013) 'Social Enterprise Association', Retrieved from: <http://www.seassociation.sg>



Searching for Social Enterprises

How and where do you start your search from?

How do you navigate through the array of information available?

A. Searching for Information

Search Tip:

Narrow your results using Boolean commands such as

'AND' or **'NOT'**

E.g.

'Social Enterprises AND definition'
'Social Enterprises NOT wikipedia'

... Versus ...

'Social Enterprises'

More specific results

*Note that search results may vary with different search engines

B. Databases

Look for reliable websites belonging to organisations with authority. Here are some recommended websites and sources:

NLB SearchPlus <http://searchplus.nlb.gov.sg/>

NLB e-resources <http://eresources.nlb.gov.sg/>

NewspaperSG <http://newspapers.nl.sg/>

Social Enterprises UK

<http://www.socialenterprise.org.uk/about>

Social Enterprise Association (Singapore)

<http://www.seassociation.sg>

C. How can you be SURE?

SOURCE:

Look at the origin.

Is it trustworthy?

Make sure that the source of information is credible and reliable.

UNDERSTAND:

Know what you are

reading. Search for

clarity.

Look for facts, not opinions.

RESEARCH:

Dig deeper. Go beyond the initial source.

Investigate thoroughly before making a conclusion. Check against multiple sources.

EVALUATE

Find the balance.

Exercise fair judgement.

Look from different angles. There are at least two sides to a story.



www.facebook.com/sgsure

sure.nl.sg

