

Social Innovation

What's the fuss? Should we foster it?







Pragmatic Approach?

Systemic Approach?

Critical Approach?

Economic Approach?

What is your approach?

Group Think



Pragmatic Approach: Innovative activities and services that designed with the goal of meeting a social need. These activities and services are typically developed and diffused through organizations whose primary purposes are social in nature.

[Mulgan et al. (2007) Social Innovation, What It Is, Why It Matters, and How it Can Be Accelerated].

The Pragmatist



Systemic Approach: A complex process through which new products, processes or programs are introduced; leading to a deep change in daily routines, allocation of resources, power relations and/or values within a system are affected by the innovation.

[Westley (2010) Making a Difference- Strategies for Scaling Social Innovation for Greater Impact].

The Excavator



Critical Approach: Empowerment and political mobilization, targeting a bottom-up transformation of the functioning of a social system. The empowerment of stakeholders enables the critical (re)distribution of both material and immaterial resources.

[Moulaert et al. (2009) Social Innovation and Territorial Development]

The Criticist



Economic Approach: A conceptual, process or product change, leading to an organizational change that facilitates changes in financing, and new relationships with stakeholders and territories.

[OECD (2009) Transforming innovation to address social challenge]

The Economist

Working Definition

Rooted with an understanding of social issues; developing and deploying solutions that support people and organizations to cocreate, learn, and evolve, making our human systems more adaptive and resilient.

"Social innovation is not the prerogative or privilege of any organizational form or legal structure. Solutions often require the active collaboration of constituents across government, business, and the non-profit world."

—Soule, Malhotra, Clavier

The Intersection of Grassroots Leadership and Social Innovation

Find like minded individuals

Challenge systemic social issues

Design Thinking

Holistic understanding of the problem



What challenges have you faced?