

Concept Note

The Prime Minister of India has declared the 'Aza di ka Amrit Mahotsav' a nationwide celebration to honour India's 75th anniversary of Independence. The program is a 75-week countdown to India's 75th Independence Day, from March 12, 2021. To mark this occasion, GNLU is proposing an International Conference on "Building Social Entrepreneurial Ecosystem for a More Sustainable and Resilient Society" – that aims to highlight the contribution of Social Entrepreneurship towards Sustainable Development while also highlighting its role and resilience in these trying times.

A social entrepreneur is a type of entrepreneur (Chell, 2007) who uses a business approach to induce favourable social outcomes for an individual beneficiary, a particular community, or a group of stakeholders (Phillips et al., 2015; Bansal et al., 2019). As stated by Austin et al. (2006), social entrepreneurship focuses explicitly on people excluded from mainstream society and lacking access to employment opportunities, thereby aiming to overcome their problems via innovative processes which enhance the chances of individuals or groups of individuals to experience inclusive development. Furthermore, while solving the problems of excluded communities, social entrepreneurs strive to ensure that sustainable solutions provide social and economic returns to the target groups (Tan et al., 2005; Zeyen et al., 2012). Moreover, social entrepreneurs focus on creating the "double bottom line," which motivates them to create social impact by achieving financial sustainability (Emerson and Twersky, 1996).

The concept of resilience provides a framework for promoting sustainable development in a constantly changing world. Resilience is "the capacity of a system to absorb disturbance and reorganise while changing to retain essentially still the same function, structure, identity, and feedback" (Walker, B.H. et al., 2004). The notion of organisational resilience is used to explain why some social enterprises succeed while others fail in the face of adversity. This notion highlights the cohabitation of risks and opportunities in a challenging environment. It emphasises organisations' ability to adapt to difficult situations and learn from their mistakes to prepare for future problems in the long run (Bhamra & Tsinoopoulos, 2018). However, organisational resilience has never been explicitly used to assess Social Enterprises' organisational activities, and managerial practices under challenging situations, despite providing a sound theoretical lens for understanding whether and how organisations can deal with obstacles.

In this pretext, GNLU Centre for Law and Society announces its second International Conference on "Building Social Entrepreneurial Ecosystem for a more sustainable and resilient society."

Objectives of the proposed Conference

The conference aims to achieve the following objectives:

1. Explicit knowledge of social entrepreneurship and resilience as a potent force for social change in India's various sectors.
2. A deeper understanding of the social entrepreneurship ecosystem and how to use it to foster, expand, and sustain social entrepreneurship in India to create resilient, equitable, and sustainable systems.
3. Tools and possibilities for capacity building and collaboration in organised, flexible, open, and integrated teams advocating social entrepreneurship and sustainable development across India have been identified and shared.

Conference Highlights

1. Best Paper Award for each track
2. Opportunities to Publish in Edited Book (s) with ISBN NO.
3. Opportunities to interact with social entrepreneurship Ecosystem enablers