

Social Entrepreneurship and Agency



In this lecture we are going to look at the individual agency of social entrepreneurs.

Individual Agency

- Individual agency is defined as 'what a person is free to do and to achieve in pursuit of whatever goals or values she regards important'

Sen, 1985, p. 206



A social entrepreneur's Individual agency is their freedom to do and to achieve in pursuit of their social mission.

Social Entrepreneurship Approaches

- Social innovation school
 - Social enterprise school
 - Participatory governance approach
 - Communitarian approach
 - Marketisation approach
- } Individual Agency Approaches
- Complexity approach



Of the six social entrepreneurship approaches that we have looked at in this unit, only five of them support individual social entrepreneurs to have agency – to take direct action on addressing a social problem.

These are

- The social innovation school
- The social enterprise school
- The participatory governance approach
- The communitarian approach, and
- The marketisation approach.

The complexity approach can not be undertaken by individuals taking action as it involves ecosystems of initiatives transitioning to a new state, and an individual social entrepreneur cannot control an ecosystem of initiatives.

References:

- Sen, A. (1985). Well-being, agency and freedom: The Dewey lectures 1984. *The journal of philosophy*, 82(4), 169-221.